HSIAC Funding Changes
Communities Through Collaboration: We are the Neighborhood

Mirian Zavala, Lehman College
George Acevedo, HSIAC
Roberto Garcia, MPC

Lehman College HSIAC Project
Keville Frederickson and Eleanor Lundeen, Co-PIs
What is the Bronx?

- One of the five boroughs of NYC
- Home to over 1.3 million people
- Hispanic: 50%+ Hispanic residents: mostly Puerto Rican, Dominican and Mexican
- Youthful: 30% eighteen years or younger
- “Well off”: 1/3 have resources
- Impoverished: 1/3 at or below poverty level
Map of the Bronx and Target Area

Racial-Ethnic Concentration
Bronx Blocks

Bold Outline: Norwood/Bredford Park
Kingsbridge Hts. Neighborhood

- N.H. Whites 75% +
- N.H. Whites 50-75%
- N.H. Blacks 75% +
- N.H. Blacks 20-75%
- Hispanics 75% +
- Hispanics 50-75%
- N.H. Asians 75% +
- N.H. Asians 50-75%
- No Absolute Majority

Blocks with Population
of 10 or More

Source: 2000 US Census

May 2001
Lehman College - Bronx Data Center
Activity I: Our Merchants

- Holiday lights
- Participation in Bronx Week
- Meetings to share common concerns
- Applications for Mini-grants to model the benefits of a NYC Business Improvement District

- Three merchant areas with over 300 small businesses
Our Merchant Areas are Diverse
(and notice the tobacco sign)
204th And Bainbridge Ave.
Bedford Park Blvd. & Jerome Ave.
The Grand Concourse
Perry Avenue
Activity 2: The Life Skills Program

- A CDC designated “Program that Works” to prevent use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
- Teaches children skills for building self-esteem, developing interpersonal relationships, managing emotions, handling anxiety and communication.
Site For Life Skills Program: MMCC
After School Programs

- MMCC is the community service arm of the Montefiore Medical Center
- Designed to stabilize the community
- Developed from Jewish philanthropies
- Children and workers represent the current diversity of the Bronx
- After School Programs offered at 11 sites
- 4,000 children are served
The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
Our Aims with Life Skills Program

- Develop our ability to train adults to teach the Life Skills program
- Train after-school staff to teach Life Skills to the children
- Teach Life Skills to 3rd and 4th graders
- Provides our LC graduate and undergraduate nursing students with community partnership experience
Teaching Strategies

- Feedback and Reinforcement
  - Group discussion
  - Role-playing
  - Adult modeling

- Instructor Manual with detailed lesson plans

- Student workbooks

- Videotapes
Students with Workbooks
Progress So Far

- Trained 35 youth workers and supervisors to teach Life Skills to children
- Youth workers and supervisors have trained 280 3rd and 4th grade children
- Responses positive from children, youth workers, supervisors and parents
- Attracted financial resources from NYS funded Bronx Breathes program
Life Skills Implementation
Students Working on Life Skills Projects
Undergraduate Student Working With Children: Life Skills Activities
LC Graduate Student, Onsite Coordinator, After-School Supervisor, Children
Partnership Between Activity 1 and 2

The Art Project of the Life Skills Program
The art/poster contest

- Collaboration between two funded HSIAC activities:
  - Economic Development
  - Life Skills Program
- 50 children in after-school program drew smoking and substance abuse prevention posters
- Graduate and undergraduate students assist
- 15 Semifinalists selected
- Students, families & Bronx leaders celebrated winners; posters displayed; 3 finalists selected
Artists at Work
Lehman College
Art Gallery Display
The Team: Bronx Breathes Coordinator, Frederickson, LC Science Dean, Nursing Chair, MMCC After school supervisor, Zavala, Lundeen, Acevedo
But Wait---We Did More

Mirian Submitted a Proposal to the Bronx Council for the Arts
Bronx Council of the Arts

 Proposal submitted and funded

 Objectives
  – Promote Bronx art and artists
  – Promote Life Skills through artistic expression

 Next Steps
 ◆ Comic book art
 ◆ Murals
Lessons Learned

- Collaboration works
- Community leaders, HSIAC staff all committed to community
- Ability and desire to make improvements
- HSIAC funding requires college to work with community: win–win relationship
- Commitment and support of college for the community
Next Steps and Challenges

- Getting families to “buy into” Life Skills
- Expanding the ideas of Life Skills to other “at risk” groups
- Finding ways to measure our outcomes, successes, and impact on quality of life